

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1780  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005  
CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES  
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the countries with which the Union Government has signed cultural agreements;
- (b) the number of them with whom the Union Government has developed cultural exchange programmes;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to develop cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;
- (d) whether ample amount is earmarked for Indian Missions abroad to promote cultural ties with other countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether irregularities have been noticed in usage of such funds;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE ( SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY )

- (a) The Government of India has signed cultural agreements with 115 countries so far.
  - (b) Under these cultural agreements, the Government has signed Cultural Exchange Programmes with 82 countries so far. With Japan, we have Mixed Commission for Culture in place of any formal CEP under the Cultural agreement.
  - (c) The Government has exchanged draft CEPs through the Ministry of External Affairs with most of the countries. As soon as the consensus on the draft with any country is arrived at, the CEP is signed.
  - (d) & (e) : This Ministry does not provide any financial assistance to Indian Mission abroad directly. However, certain Indo-foreign friendship societies in foreign countries are sanctioned grant in aid on the recommendations of our Missions abroad after obtaining political clearance from Ministry of External Affairs. During 2004-2005, the amount of grant in aid sanctioned to the friendship societies across the world was Rs.44.7 lakhs.
- Our Missions/Posts abroad also schedule annual programmes and events for promoting cultural ties with their respective countries of accreditation and their funding is done by the Ministry of External Affairs and ICCR. The Ministry of External Affairs has been, on encouragement of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, ensuring that adequate funds are earmarked for Indian Missions for promoting cultural ties.
- (f) So far we have not come across any financial irregularity in usage of these grants to Indo-foreign friendship societies.
  - (g) & (h) : Do not arise.